

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 02497 131757Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 CU-04 /066 W

-----079010 131810Z /44

R 131546Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2817

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PINS SHUM TO

SUBJ: EYADEMA INTERVIEW WITH JEUNE AFRIQUE

REF: LOME 2468 (NOTAL)

1. JEUNE AFRIQUE DATED SEPTEMBER 9 CONTAINED INTERVIEW WITH EYADEMA. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED POLITICAL PRISONERS, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, PHOSPHATE PRICES, AND AFRICAN FRONTIERS.

A. POLITICAL PRISONERS: EYADEMA SAID HE WAS HOLDING 12 PROFESSORS AND POST OFFICE OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH "TREASONABLE" ACTS INVOLVING CIRCULATION OF ANONYMOUS POLITICAL TRACTS. HE WAS SURE THAT IF TRIED IN COURT THEY WOULD BE SENTENCED, BUT THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE THEM "BAD CITIZENS." THEREFORE, HE HAD NO INTEREST IN KEEPING THEM LOCKED UP FOR "A LONG TIME." BEFORE APRIL 21, 1977, THERE HAD BEEN NO POLITICAL PRISONERS. NO STUDENTS HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN ARRESTED, NOT EVEN 4 VOLTAIC STUDENTS INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING TRACTS. THEY HAD EVEN BEEN ALLOWED TO FINISH THE ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY; BUT THEY WOULD NOT RETURN THIS YEAR. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR NUMBER OF PRISONERS, THIS GENERALLY CONFIRMS SITUATION REPORTED BY EMBASSY.

B. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON

STUDENT CRITICISM, EYADEMA REPLIED THAT THEY HAD RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING THEY WANTED. HE DID NOT WANT HIS COLLABORATORS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ANYONE TO JOIN THE POLITICAL PARTY. "BELIEVE ME, IF I HAVE AN OBSESSION, IT IS LIBERTY FOR EVERYONE." COMMENT: THESE COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT IN LOME, WHERE IT IS NOT CONSIDERED PRUDENT TO CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT OR THE GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC.

C. PHOSPHATES: EYADEMA SAID THERE HAD BEEN TWO MEETINGS IN DAKAR TO SET UP A SORT OF OPEC FOR PHOSPHATES. COMMENT: THE IMPLICATION IS THAT TOGO SUPPORTS THESE EFFORTS. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THAT TOGO HAD NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE TOWARD PROPOSALS FOR PRICE AND PRODUCTION CONTROL.

D. AFRICAN FRONTIERS: PRINCIPLE OF UNTOUCHABILITY OF AFRICAN FRONTIERS HAD BEEN A "GROSS ERROR," AND WAS IN CONTRADICTION TO PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IN THE ETHIOPIA-SOMOLIA AFFAIR BOTH PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE INVOLVED. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON TOGO'S FRONTIER WITH GHANA, EYADEMA ARGUED THAT HISTORICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY "AUTHENTIC" TOGO'S FRONTIER IS THE VOLTA RIVER. COMMENT: EYADEMA HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING TOGOLAND ISSUE DIE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION HE INTENDS TO PUSH IT SERIOUSLY AT THIS TIME.

2. EMBASSY SENDING DEPARTMENT TRANSLATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERVIEW BY AIRGRAM. PALMER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PRISONERS, POLITICAL FREEDOM, PHOSPHATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME02497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770331-1081
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770970/aaaachgt.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, PINS, SHUM, SOPN, EMIN, TO, JEUNE AFRIQUE, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBE)
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